



January 2006

New Trail Improvements Allow Greater Public Access

Sacagawea Heritage Trail gains popularity

City of Kennewick, WA (September 2005) - The stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) approved a grant of \$506,000 to the City of Kennewick for improvements to allow public access to 1.6 miles along the Columbia River. The improvements include constructing a meandering trail on top of the levee and adding landscaping, park benches, drainage, trash receptacles, picnic tables, drinking fountains, and interpretive signs. This trail corridor links to the regional Sacagawea Heritage Trail, which spans several municipal jurisdictions, and links the downtown district with the river. The project was completed in partnership with the Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, City of Kennewick, and US Army Corps of Engineers. Since trail construction was completed, the City of Kennewick has seen a surge in use along this trail; residents use the trail for both daily physical activity and weekend recreation. For more information, please contact Heather Ramsay, LWCF Project Manager, at heather_ramsay@nps.gov or 206-220-4123.

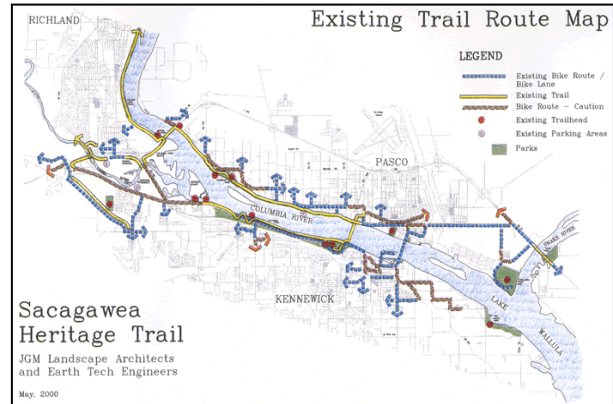


Image courtesy City of Kennewick.

Realizing the Vision of a Pennsylvania Community

Cranberry Creek Corridor receives additional protection from NPS

Pocono Township, PA (*date*) – A 127-acre area, recognized as a top regional priority, was acquired with \$248,000 of National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) assistance. This acquisition will take a significant step toward providing opportunities for recreation and riparian corridor protection along Bulgers Run and Cranberry Creek. The LWCF grant will also support the protection of land within 2,000 feet of a Natural Area Inventory Site and natural habitat in an area under development pressure. The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program provided facilitation and technical assistance to the Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County Planning, Pocono Township and other county and local officials in development of the Brodhead Watershed Conservation Plan. For more information, please contact Mary Vavra, LWCF Project Manager at mary_vavra@nps.gov or 215-597-9175 or Dave Lange, RTCA Project Manager at david_a_lange@nps.gov or (215) 597-6477.

Memphis Obtains Site for Community & Aquatics Center

A second surplus Army parcel becomes multi-purpose community center



Image courtesy Bill Huie.

Memphis, TN (November 3, 2005) - The National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) program transferred, at no cost, 17.66 acres of the Memphis Defense Distribution Depot to the City of Memphis for public park and recreation use. This is the second parcel to be made available from this base closing. Valued at just over \$430,000, acquisition of this property will help the City's Division of Park Services

provide a multi-purpose community center, including an aquatics center, and much-needed open space for its citizens. The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, Atlanta, GA, at bill_huie@nps.gov or 404-562-3175.

Groundwork Yonkers Restores Habitat Along the Sawmill River

Seventy volunteers improve a five-mile stretch

Yonkers, NY (Fall 2005) – With support from the National Park Service, Groundwork Yonkers established the Sawmill River Coalition to raise awareness, monitor water quality, improve biodiversity, and clean up one of the Hudson's most polluted tributaries. The Coalition now involves every municipality in the watershed, and many citizen groups, schools, and nonprofit partners. This fall, twenty volunteers cleared a two-acre site of invasive plants and seeded it with native species to restore a riverside meadow. Fifty other volunteers launched the "Free-A-Tree" program to remove invasive vines from two woodland sites along the riverfront. Lessons learned from this five-mile demonstration project will produce best practices for restoration of the entire 25-mile river corridor.

Partners include the Westchester County Parks Dept. and District Attorneys Office, the Westchester Community Foundation, Riverkeeper, New York State DOT, and many local groups and residents. GW Yonkers is a member of the Groundwork USA Initiative of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program and the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Program, which builds the capacity of urban communities to improve their environment for conservation, recreation and economic development. For more information, please contact Douglas Evans, Groundwork USA Initiative Manager for the NPS RTCA program at douglas_evans@nps.gov or 617-223-5124.

Bureau of Parks and Lands in Maine Acquires 33.8 Miles

A new multi-use trail will provide connections to local trails

Houlton to Presque Isle, ME (December 2005) -The State of Maine, with assistance from a \$150,000 LWCF grant, will acquire 33.8 miles of abandoned railroad corridor in two sections for conversion to a multi-use trail in northern Maine. The two sections are separated by a 3.7-mile section where the State has a lease agreement with the landowner, creating an unbroken 37.5-mile multi-use trail corridor through eight northern Maine communities. The properties can be accessed from public road crossings along the corridor and several local trails that link up to the corridor. The trail also provides access to several rivers and streams that it parallels and crosses. For more information, please contact Michael Louie, LWCF Project Manager at Michael_T_Louie@nps.gov or 215-597-4056.

Hands-on Uvalde Trail School Training Benefits Park

New access trail completed

Uvalde, TX (October 22, 2005) – Participants in a trail training school for volunteer trail builders implemented the first phase of construction in Uvalde's Cooks Slough Nature Park. The school was co-sponsored by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, Texas Bicycle Coalition's Trail Doctors, the City of Uvalde, and project consultants, Alianza, LLC. Trainees applied their newly learned skills to complete an



Image courtesy Kathryn Nichols.

access trail in the new 190-acre Nature Park.

The RTCA program has been assisting the City of Uvalde in trail planning for the Nature Park and the town. RTCA coordinated several workshops on Walkable Communities and trail layout and construction. RTCA also worked with the City and its consultant to submit a park grant that garnered \$800,000 to acquire park land, create wetlands, and construct trails and nature viewing stations. For more information, please contact Kathryn Nichols, Community Planner, at Kathryn_Nichols@nps.gov or 512-916-5161.

A Small Piece of Land Provides a Big Impact

New Jersey & NPS protect valuable open space near the Hudson River

Hudson County, NJ (December 5, 2005) – Through the support of an National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant of \$1,513,420, New Jersey is helping the City of Hoboken and Weehawken Township acquire 2.03 acres of land at a cost of \$3,026,840. Although the acreage is small, the impact is big for this 1.27 square mile community. Few opportunities to acquire waterfront property for public access exist, so while expensive, the site's location near the Hudson River in a densely populated area explains the cost. Located near Cove Park, the additional acreage will greatly enhance public open space and recreation opportunities along the river. Hoboken intends to develop both active and passive recreational amenities. For more information, please contact Roy Cortez, LWCF Project Manager at roy_cortez@nps.gov or 215 597-5134.

Groundwork Dallas Begins Greening the City

Forming non-profit improves neighborhoods

Dallas, TX (October 22 & December 10, 2005) – Groundwork Dallas volunteers are reviving Dallas' southern sector through a series of projects launching this new organization. On October 22, Groundwork Dallas sponsored its first community partnership project, cleaning up one neighborhood's main street and landscaping a traffic island. At the second event, December 10, volunteers planted 50 trees in the sector's Lawnview Park.

The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is providing assistance to the Groundwork Dallas Steering Committee on forming a new organization and identifying suitable trail and greenspace improvement projects. RTCA helped this community-government partnership obtain Groundwork USA Pilot Program funding from the NPS and the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Program. The grant, along with matching funds from the City of Dallas and Operation ACT, a river clean-up group, will fund a start-up year of operations. For more information, please contact Kathryn Nichols, Community Planner, at Kathryn_Nichols@nps.gov or 512-916-5161.

Staff Successes:

Many of our staff have been honored by their partners for their contributions to successful projects; here are some of the most recent:

- The State of Maine recognized Kevin Mendik, NPS Hydropower Recreation Assistance program, along with the entire West Branch, Penobscot River Storage Project settlement team, with a Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

- The Colorado State Trails program recognized Hugh Osborne, NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, for his work and construction design on the Wheeler Geologic Area trail project. The project was named the Best Small (under \$100,000) Project for 2005 and was planned and constructed under the auspices of Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC).
- The National Park Service awarded David Smith, Interpreter for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, the national Tilden Award for creating the vibrant "Anza Discovery Trail" outreach education program to train teachers and introduce students to a fun 3rd and 4th grade curriculum-based education program along the 1,200 mile Anza Trail.
- The American Canoe Association recognized the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program as a Champion of Water Trails for their support and leadership in efforts to establish water trails around the country.

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project. This e-mail newsletter may be copied or redirected; our staff would be pleased to assist your editor in adapting any of these stories for your publication. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please call (202) 354-6900 or e-mail sally_orate@nps.gov